



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, December 9, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

New Jersey:

On December 3, a reporter with the Newark Star-Ledger called for information on the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Cooperative Eradication Program. The reporter is doing a story on the history of the program and its efforts to eradicate the beetle from the United States. The story is slated to run in Sunday, December 12, 2004 edition.

On December 5, New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry Director, Carl Schulze, and USDA's New Jersey ALB Cooperative Eradication Program Director, Barry Emens, were call in guests on Ralph Snodsmith's WOR AM syndicated radio program, "Garden Hotline," to update listeners on the eradication efforts in Carteret and Jersey City, NJ. As a result of the show, numerous phone calls to New Jersey's ALB Hotline number, 1-866-BEETLE 1, were generated from listeners who thought they may have seen signs of the beetle on their properties.

As of December 8, 132 trees have been removed from the Carteret ALB Infestation Site. Approximately 1,000 host trees, including the 410 infested trees plus some of the high risk host trees, will be removed during this first phase of tree removal which began November 29. More than 4,000 host trees will be removed over the next several months.

Field surveys of the Carteret ALB Infestation continued this week with 56,074 trees inspected to date with a total of 410 infested trees detected. The quarantine zone is 10.5 square miles. Twenty six USFS climbers, two NJDA climbers, and twenty two program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, and NJ Forestry are performing survey and regulatory activities.

New York:

Laird Draves and Margie Thorson from APHIS, Marketing and Regulatory Programs-Business Services Contracting and Christine Markham and Joseph Gittleman held a meeting with The Davey Tree Expert Company to review their 2004 performance on the treatment contracts and to discuss improvements for contract delivery with the 2005 contracts.

On December 5, Mike Bohne, USDA Forest Service Entomologist/ALB Outreach coordinator for the New York ALB Cooperative Eradication Program, Rosa Yoo, New Jersey Forestry/ALB Outreach coordinator, and Megan Sheremata, New York State Forestry/ALB Outreach coordinator conducted an Urban Forestry Workshop at the Greenbelt Environmental Education Center, High Rock Park, Staten Island, NY. The workshop provided information on the ALB infestation in Carteret, NJ; the ALB infestations found this summer in NYC and how to look for, identify and report any sighting of the ALB.

On December 9, Mike Bohne, USDA Forest Service Entomologist/ALB Outreach coordinator for the New York ALB Program, and Megan Sheremata, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Forester/ALB Outreach, provided training to approximately 15 volunteers from New York's Prospect Park, in Brooklyn, on how to survey for and report any finding of the ALB. To date, the program has trained more than 55 volunteers in the Prospect Park area.

On December 16, New York ALB Cooperative Eradication Program personnel will conduct ALB Compliance Training at Massapequa Town Hall in Long Island, NY.

Illinois:

On December 3, a meeting was held to discuss deregulation and eradication goals for the ALB Chicago Program. Participants included Christine Markham, National ALB Program Director, Mike Stefan, USDA APHIS Director of Emergency Programs and Stephen Knight, Acting ALB Chicago Program director.



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Emergency Response Information System:

Staff members from each of the ALB project offices, Christine Markham, and Mike Stefan met with the REI, the database contractor, for a requirements meeting on the GIS system application and the treatment handbook. Full delivery of the system is scheduled for March 31, 2005.

EMERALD ASHBORER

Michigan:

Four (4) EAB larvae found in Brethren, Manistee County, MI were confirmed by Dr. James Zablotny on December 1, 2004. The specimens were collected from a trap tree.

This is the first record for this county.

Source: Deborah McPartlan

SUDDEN OAK DEATH

PPQ's final draft *Phytophthora ramorum* Federal Order and the associated CCC funding request are awaiting final action.

A Maryland nursery, sampled as part of the Hines Nursery trace forward, has tested positive for *P. ramorum*.

Two California nurseries that were found positive earlier this year but not included in this report are now included, raising the number of *P. ramorum* positives sites in CA to 55. One was a trace forward from Monrovia and the second was picked up during a compliance survey.

As of December 3, 2004, the total number of confirmed positive sites from the trace forward, national, and other survey is 176 in 22 States. The total includes three residential finds; two in Georgia and one in South Carolina; there was one environs find in New York. The breakdown per State is: AL (3), AR (1), AZ (1), CA (55), CO (1), CT (3), FL (6), GA (16), LA (5), MD (3), NC (9), NJ (1), NM (1), NY (1), OK (1), OR (24), PA (1), SC (4), TN (2), TX (11), VA (2) and WA (25).

National Survey counts for Texas are updated this week. As of December 3, 2004, participating States throughout the nation have surveyed 3,130 sites and have collected 51,520 samples; 15 national survey sites are confirmed positive. APHIS - PPQ *P. ramorum* National Survey activities are reported complete in 22 of 23 Western Region States currently participating (AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, IA, ID, KS, LA, MO, MT, NE, NM, ND, NV, OK, OR, SD, UT, TX, WA, and WY) and 18 of 28 participating Eastern Region states, including Puerto Rico (AL, CT, DE, FL, IL, IN, KY, ME, MI, MN, MS, NC, NJ, OH, PA, PR, TN, WI).

Source: James Writer

SOYBEAN RUST

Researchers at the National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., reported that one of two soybean leaf samples collected near Memphis, Tenn., has tested positive for *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, or soybean rust.

Soybean rust, a disease spread primarily by wind-borne spores, has been confirmed in nine states since it was first discovered in the United States on Nov. 10 in Louisiana. Other states include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri and South Carolina. As a result, the number of confirmed soybean rust infected States in the United States now stands at 9.

USDA encourages growers to contact USDA's Extension Service, their State Department of Agriculture, and their crop consultants to obtain information on what fungicides are registered for use in their states, as well as when these fungicides should be used.

For more information on soybean rust, please visit www.aphis.usda.gov